

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (original) A process for the hydrogenolysis of a sugar feedstock in the presence of a catalyst comprising:

- (a) ruthenium or osmium; and
- (b) an organic phosphine;

and wherein the hydrogenolysis is carried out in the presence of water and at a temperature of greater than 150°C.

2. (original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the sugar feedstock is a feedstock comprising one or more of polyols, alditols, aldoses and polymers of aldoses.

3. (original) A process according to Claim 2 wherein the polymers of aldoses are starch or cellulose.

4. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 2 wherein the alditols and aldoses suitable for use in the process of the present invention are those being from C₃ to C₁₂.

5. (original) A process according to Claim 4 wherein the alditols and aldoses suitable for use in the process of the present invention are those being from C₃ to C₆.

6. (original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the feedstock is selected from glucose, sucrose, xylose, arabinose and mannose.

7. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein water is present as the solvent for the reaction.

8. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the sugar feedstock or the product of the reaction is the solvent and water is added as an additive in the solvent.

9. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein a solvent is used and water is added as an additive in the solvent.

10. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 9 wherein suitable solvents are selected from tetraethyleneglycol dimethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, amides, lactams, N-methyl caprolactam, N-methyl pyrrolidone, diethyl ether, ethyleneglycol dimethyl ether, dioxane, 2-propanol, 2-butanol, secondary alcohols and tertiary alcohols.

11. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the ruthenium is provided as a ruthenium compound.

12. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 11 wherein the ruthenium compound is a nitrate, sulphate, carboxylate, beta diketone, and carbonyls or carbonyl.

13. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the ruthenium is present in an amount of from 0.0001 to 5 mol as ruthenium per liter of reaction solution.

14. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the phosphine is selected from mono, bi and tridentate phosphines.

15. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the phosphine is selected from trialkylphosphines, dialkylphosphines, monoalkylphosphines, triarylphosphines, diarylphosphine, monoarylphosphines, diarylmonoalkyl phosphines and dialkylmonoaryl phosphines.

16. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 15 wherein the phosphine is selected from tris-1,1,1-(diphenylphosphinomethyl)methane, tris-1,1,1-

(diphenylphosphinomethyl)ethane, tris-1,1,1-(diphenylphosphinomethyl)propane, tris-1,1,1-(diphenylphosphino-methyl)butane, tris-1,1,1-(diphenylphosphinomethyl)2,2dimethylpropane, tris-1,3,5-(diphenyl-phosphino-methyl)cyclohexane, tris-1,1,1-(dicyclohexylphosphinomethyl)ethane, tris-1,1,1-(dimethylphosphinomethyl)ethane, tris-1,1,1-(diethylphosphinomethyl)ethane, 1,5,9-triethyl-1,5-9-triphosphacyclododecane, 1,5,9-triphenyl-1,5-9-triphosphacyclododecane, bis(2-diphyle phosphinoethyl)phenylphosphine, bis-1,2-(diphenylphosphino)ethane, bis-1,3-(diphenylphosphino)propane, bis-1,4-(diphenylphosphino)butane, bis-1,2-(dimethyl phosphino)ethane, bis-1,3-(diethylphosphino)propane,bis-1,4-(dicyclohexylphosphino)butane, tricyclohexylphosphine, trioctylphosphine, trimethylphosphine, tripyridylphosphine and triphenylphosphine.

17. (original) A process according to Claim 13 wherein the phosphine is a tridentate phosphine.

18. (original) A process according to Claim 17 wherein-the tridentate phosphine is tris-1,1,1-(diarylphosphinomethyl)alkane or tris-1,1,1-(dialkylphosphinomethyl) alkane.

19. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the phosphine compound is present in an amount of from 0.0001 to 5 mol as phosphine per liter of reaction solution.

20. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein a base is added.

21. (original) A process according to Claim 20 wherein the base is an amine.

22. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein a second phosphine is added to increase the selectivity.

23. (original) A process according to Claim 22 wherein the second phosphine is one being more weakly coordinating than the phosphine.

24. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the temperature is from about 190°C to about 260°C.

25. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the reaction pressure is from about 250 psig to about 2000 psig.

26. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the sugar feedstock is an aldose and a pre-reduction step is included.

27. (original) A process according to Claim 22 wherein the temperature of the pre-reduction step is from about 150°C to about 250°C.

28. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 26 wherein the pressure of the pre-reduction step is from about 600 to about 1000 psig.

29. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the catalyst is regenerated in the presence of the water and hydrogen.